

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 20, "Comfort of the Holy Spirit"

Scripture Lesson: John 14:1-31

Lesson Aim	To understand what it means that Christ is in his exalted state as King and Head of his church and that his return is imminent to the earth from his exalted state to judge all people.
Steps to Learning	Read the Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 20 and John 14:1-31 . Discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
Discuss	<p>Is the Holy Spirit a force like the force in "Star Wars?" No. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Holy Trinity.</p> <p>How do we define the Holy Trinity? The Holy Trinity is defined as One God who has eternally existed in three distinct persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.</p> <p>In John 14:9, Jesus says to Philip that if he has seen Jesus, he has seen the Father. Does that mean that Jesus is the same person as the Father? No. Jesus is a distinct person. What Jesus means is that those seeing Jesus can understand that he reveals the Father to them. Jesus, the Father and the Holy Spirit are distinct persons but all three are the same God, one in essence.</p> <p>What Scriptures make it plain that the Holy Spirit is God? Genesis 1:1-2 reveal that the Holy Spirit, in the initial creation, was hovering over the face of the waters, which means he was creating. Only God can create, therefore, the Holy Spirit is God. Another text that proves the divinity of the Holy Spirit is Acts 5:1-4, in which Peter directly calls the Holy Spirit, God.</p> <p>What does the Holy Spirit do in salvation? The Holy Spirit regenerates (gives people a new heart) as the Word is preached and grants faith. In this, the Holy Spirit makes us a partaker of Christ and all of his benefits.</p> <p>How does the Holy Spirit teach us? He teaches us through the preaching of the Word of God. First, the Holy Spirit inspired some of the Apostles to write Scripture. Then, when those and other Scriptures are preached, the Spirit enables us to understand the Word.</p> <p>What is the comfort we find from the Holy Spirit abiding with us forever? In John, Jesus teaches that the Holy Spirit is given to the church as Another Helper. The "other" helper is Jesus Christ who indwells us by the power of the Holy Spirit. In fact, Jesus teaches in John that the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, indwells believers and are with them forever.</p>
Bible Reading	Psalms 66-73 (Reading through the Psalms)